

Clean Version of Amended Claims:

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1. (Four Times Amended) Footwear for protecting a foot consisting essentially of:

a vamp of an upper consisting of a single and continuous unit extending from a toe region to an instep region extending laterally across the footwear from a left-most side to a right-most side of the footwear; and

a liner positioned beneath said instep portion and consisting of a single and continuous piece; and

an elastic instep guard positioned between said instep portion and said liner to protect a metatarsal section of the foot, said instep guard including an elastic support having a plurality of hollow passages and extending from said toe region to said instep region of said vamp.

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24. (Amended) Footwear for protecting a foot, comprising:

a vamp of an upper extending from a toe portion to an instep portion;

a liner positioned beneath said instep portion;

a steel toe positioned beneath said toe portion;

an elastic guard positioned between said instep portion and said liner and including a plurality of hollow passages; and

said elastic instep guard is in direct contact with said steel toe and extends from said steel toe toward said instep portion for providing continuous protection to the foot.

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